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Item 88 of the preliminary list*

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
Second regular session of 1991
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TO ADDRESS AND MITIGATE THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE ACCIDENT AT THE CHERNOBYL NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

Letter dated 19 February 1991 from the Permanent Representative of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic to the United Nations

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a Declaration issued by the Supreme Soviet of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic on 6 February 1991 concerning the adoption at the forty-fifth session of the General Assembly of resolution 45/190 entitled "International cooperation to address and mitigate the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant".

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as an official document, under the appropriate item of the agenda of the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly, and of the Economic and Social Council.

(Signed) Guennadi N. BURAVKIN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the
Byelorussian SSR to the United Nations

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* A/46/50.

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ANNEX

Declaration issued by the Supreme Soviet of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic

On behalf of the Byelorussian people, the Supreme Soviet of the Byelorussian SSR expresses deep gratitude to the sponsors and all the States Members of the United Nations for the adoption, at the forty-fifth session of the General Assembly, of the resolution entitled "International cooperation to address and mitigate the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant".

The Byelorussian SSR was most severely affected by the disaster at Chernobyl, which constituted a national tragedy for our Republic. About 22.4 per cent of the territory of the Republic was contaminated by radiation, and 20 per cent of the population was in the contaminated area. The after-effects pose a real threat to the lives and health of hundreds of thousands of people, particularly children, and to the future of the Byelorussian identity.

As we see it, the moral and material support has profound significance: as a reflection of the new political thinking, as a reaffirmation of coordination among States on the basis of universal human values and humanitarian principles, and as a sign of the strengthening of the spirit of partnership and the development of new forms of international cooperation.

We are grateful to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, for his personal attention to this matter and for his major contribution in intensifying international efforts and coordinating international initiatives to solve the many complex problems resulting from the disaster.

In expressing its sincere gratitude for the across-the-board assistance to the Byelorussian people, and the support by States, using the machinery of the United Nations, for our own national efforts to overcome that major calamity, the Supreme Soviet of the Byelorussian SSR is confident that in this new phase of international cooperation to address and mitigate the consequences of the accident at Chernobyl, the highly humanitarian principles of the aforementioned resolution will find practical expression through the participation of the world community.

We hope that the substantive focus of international solidarity will be on the most severely affected regions and their inhabitants, especially children, women, the elderly, the disabled and those who were involved in localizing the disaster and limiting its effects. The parliamentarians of the Byelorussian SSR appeal to the parliaments and Governments of States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, the business, financial, scientific and religious communities, citizens' groups, funds, representatives of the mass media, fellow citizens, and all people of good will to respond without delay to the call made by the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session to provide appropriate moral support and practical assistance in emergency situations.

For its part, the Supreme Soviet of the Byelorussian SSR, fully accepting its responsibility for the future of the Byelorussian nation, declares that it is determined to continue taking comprehensive national measures, and that it is prepared to continue participating in international programmes of cooperation and assistance to the population of the areas affected by the radiological and environmental disaster.

The Supreme Soviet of the Byelorussian SSR calls on the United Nations to proclaim 26 April the international day for the prevention of nuclear and other industrial or technological disasters. It hopes that the States Members of the United Nations will support the convening of a pledging conference for a Chernobyl fund to promote the appropriate activities of the United Nations system, to be held at United Nations Headquarters in New York on the occasion of the fifth anniversary of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant.